

CLAIMS

1-63. (Canceled)

64. (Previously presented) A timing notice apparatus comprising:

a synchronization information extraction circuit configured to extract frame synchronization information from within a reference signal, a frame frequency for a frame of image data being the frequency for said frame synchronization information;

a synchronization information generation circuit configured to generate synthesized synchronization information in the absence of said reference signal, said frame frequency for the frame of image data being the frequency for said synthesized synchronization information.

65. (Previously presented) The timing notice apparatus as set forth in claim 64, further comprising:

a controller configured to await a reception of an acquisition command, an output of a timing notice signal from said controller being permissible only after said reception of the acquisition command.

66. (Previously presented) The timing notice apparatus as set forth in claim 65, wherein said timing notice signal is said frame synchronization information when said reference signal is present, said timing notice signal being said synthesized synchronization information when said reference signal is absent.

67. (Previously presented) The timing notice apparatus as set forth in claim 65, wherein said controller is configured to receive said acquisition command from a universal serial bus and output said timing notice signal onto said universal serial bus.

68. (Previously presented) The timing notice apparatus as set forth in claim 67, wherein said controller is configured to receive operating power from said universal serial bus.

69. (Previously presented) The timing notice apparatus as set forth in claim 65, further comprising:

a general-purpose interface configured to transfer said timing notice signal to an external peripheral editing device,

wherein said general-purpose interface is configured to relay commands and information between a personal computer and said external peripheral editing device.

70. (Previously presented) A computer configured to generate acquisition commands, the computer comprising:

an interface unit configured to await a reception of a timing notice signal after transmitting one of the acquisition commands, a subsequent one of the acquisition commands being transmissible from said interface unit only after said reception of the timing notice signal,

wherein said acquisition commands are generated at a rate of said reception, said rate being at a frame frequency for a frame of image data.

71. (Previously presented) A computer program embodied in a tangible non-transitory computer-readable storage medium, acquisition commands being generated by the computer program, the computer program comprising:

a device driver configured to transmit one of the acquisition commands and thereafter await a reception of a timing notice signal, a subsequent one of the acquisition commands being transmissible by said device driver only after said reception,

wherein said acquisition commands are generated at a rate of said reception, said rate being at a frame frequency for a frame of image data.

72. (Previously presented) The computer program as set forth in claim 71, further comprising:

an application program interface configured to generate said subsequent one of the acquisition commands only after receiving a notification from device driver, said notification indicating said reception.

73. (Currently amended) An editing system comprising:

a timing notice apparatus configured to output a timing notice signal and receive acquisition command transmissions, said timing notice apparatus outputting said timing notice signal after receiving one of the acquisition command transmissions;

a computer configured to output said acquisition command transmissions and receive said timing notice signal, said computer awaiting a reception of said ~~one of the~~ timing notice signal after outputting said one of the acquisition command transmissions,

wherein a frequency rate for said timing notice signal is a frame frequency for a frame of image data, output of said acquisition command transmissions from said computer being synchronous with said frequency rate.

74. (Currently amended) The editing system as set forth in claim 73, wherein output from said computer of a subsequent one of the acquisition command transmissions is permissible only after said reception of said ~~one of the~~ timing notice signal.

75. (Previously presented) The editing system as set forth in claim 73, wherein said timing notice apparatus is configured to receive said acquisition command transmissions from a universal serial bus and output said timing notice signal onto said universal serial bus.

76. (Previously presented) The editing system as set forth in claim 75, wherein said timing notice apparatus is configured to receive operating power from said universal serial bus.

77. (Previously presented) The editing system as set forth in claim 74, wherein said timing notice signal is frame synchronization information when a reference signal is present, said timing notice signal being synthesized synchronization information when said reference signal is absent.

78. (Previously presented) The editing system as set forth in claim 77, further comprising:

a synchronization information extraction circuit configured to extract said frame synchronization information from within said reference signal, said frame frequency for the frame of image data being the frequency for said frame synchronization information.

79. (Previously presented) The editing system as set forth in claim 77, further comprising:

a synchronization information generation circuit configured to generate said synthesized synchronization information in the absence of said reference signal, said frame frequency for the frame of image data being the frequency for said synthesized synchronization information.

80. (Previously presented) The editing system as set forth in claim 77, wherein a second timing notice signal is within a second reference signal, said second timing notice signal being extractable from within said second reference signal.

81. (Previously presented) The editing system as set forth in claim 80, wherein a second timing notice apparatus is connectable to said computer, said second timing notice apparatus being configured to await receipt of said acquisition command transmissions and transmit a second timing notice signal.

82. (Previously presented) The editing system as set forth in claim 81, wherein said second timing notice apparatus is connectable to said computer through a hub.

83. (Previously presented) The editing system as set forth in claim 81, wherein said second timing notice signal is transmitted upon receipt of said acquisition command transmissions.

84. (Previously presented) The editing system as set forth in claim 81, wherein frame frequencies of the image data and second data differ, said second timing notice signal being transmissible from said second timing notice apparatus at said frame frequency of the second data.

85. (Previously presented) The editing system as set forth in claim 74, further comprising:

a general-purpose interface configured to transfer said timing notice signal to an external peripheral editing device,

wherein said general-purpose interface relays commands and information between said computer and said external peripheral editing device.

86. (Previously presented) A method for acquiring timing notice signals, the method comprising:

transmitting an acquisition command from a computer, said computer awaiting a reception for one of the timing notice signals after transmitting said acquisition command;

awaiting said acquisition command from said computer, said timing notice apparatus outputting said one of the timing notice signals only after receiving said acquisition command,

wherein a rate of output for said timing notice signals at a frame frequency for a frame of image data, said computer generating said acquisition commands at said rate.

87. (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 86, wherein said timing notice apparatus extracts said timing notice signal from within said reference signal, said timing notice apparatus synthesizing said timing notice signal in the absence of said reference signal.